Badley, Brenton H. 306
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IN MEMORIAM.

REV. BRENTON H. BADLEY, D.D.

MEMOIR

OF THE

REV. BRENTON H. BADLEY, D. D.,

PRESENTED BEFORE THE STATION MEETING

OF THE

MEMBERS OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSION, LUCKNOW,

AND

Recorded in their Minutes, March 10th, 1892.

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"A pure, sincere and stable spirit, is not distracted, though it be employed in many works; for that it works all to the honor of God, and, inwardly being still and quiet, seeks not itself in anything it doth."

Thomas á Kempis.

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BRENTON HAMLINE BADLEY, D. D.

BORN APRIL 27, 1849; DIED NOV. 20, 1891.

He was a good man.—Acts xi. 24.

A VACANT chair and silent voice remind us that the Angel of Death has again entered our circle and left us to mourn and bow in sad submission to the will of Providence. Months have passed since we committed his body to the ground, but they have not lessened the sense of our loss; and this tribute of respect to the memory of him who has left us is recorded with as deep feelings of sorrow, as if it had been penned in the first rush of grief after his departure. The place he has left in our hearts and in our work is not filled, but we take up our burden of grief and work, trusting in the sympathy and help of Him who has promised never to leave nor forsake us. It is difficult to say which of the workers in the Lord's vineyard would be most missed, if called to labour in those upper fields, but of this we are confident, that he who for so many years was the leader in our circle, who, by his sweet spirit and quiet sympathy, won all our hearts, whose patient steadfastness and fidelity in labour gained our constant respect, and whose purity of life and words always challenged our admiration, has left vacant a place which cannot soon be filled, and has left with us a memory which will always be cherished with tender veneration.

Brenton Hamline Badley was born at Monmouth, Indiana, April 27th, 1849 (and was therefore at the time of his death forty-two years and seven months of age). He was the son of the Rev. Arthur Badley, of the Des Moines Conference, and, through all his youth, showed the results of the most careful and conscientious training. He made good use of all his opportunities for learning, and graduated from Simpson College, Iowa, in 1870, and from Garrett Biblical Institute in 1872. His motto, *Labor ipse voluptas est*, written in his school books was a striking prophecy of his after life.

The early maturity of his mind and heart is manifested in the speech made by Dr. Badley at the farewell missionary meeting held in New York at the time of his departure for India in 1872. His carefully chosen words, indicative of breadth of vision, steadfastness of purpose, strong convictions, thorough consecration, and faith in the ultimate triumph of the cause he had espoused resemble more the utterances of an experienced worker than those of a young man of only twenty-three.

At the same time he made the following brief statement regarding his Christian life, "During the past six years I have been walking peacefully in the sunshine of God's comforting presence. In all that time I have been saying, 'Here am I, Lord, send me.' When God wanted

me to give myself to the missionary work he only touched me and pointed to India." And this was true, for, having been asked to enter the mission work in India, he had only asked whether there were the largest opportunities of usefulness to be found here, and, being convinced it was so, had quickly made up his mind to come. And through all his life, though he was a man of high and noble ambition, he never wavered in his conviction, but always held firmly to the opinion that India offered the largest opportunities of usefulness to be found anywhere in the church. This was always his rallying cry and the ground of his invitations to other young men to come and join him in the work.

Shortly after graduation, he married Miss Mary A. Scott, of Washington C. H., Ohio, and arrived in India at the end of the same year, on December 19th, 1872. Immediately upon his arrival in Lucknow, he took up the full work of a missionary, and owing to the illness of some of the older missionaries, he engaged in much additional labour, among other things, rendering valuable assistance as editor of the *Lucknow*, (now *Indian*), *Witness*. He began at once the study of the languages, and in six months after landing, preached his first sermon in the bazaar. He was always an enthusiastic admirer of the Hindustani language, and enjoyed no work more than the preparation of sermons and books in the vernacular.

After one year at Lucknow, he was for four years stationed at Gonda, a small city in the forest districts on the borders of Nepaul. Here he laboured faithfully in district evangelization, and here it was he gained much of the experience, and gathered the material for that charming description of missionary life in India, entitled "The Mela at Tulsipur."

In 1878 he came to Lucknow and, with the exception of a short furlough at home in 1884, he laboured here without interruption until his death. His work in Lucknow was faithful, energetic, and effective. Every department of the work shows the results of his careful organising hand. The general missionary work, the day-schools, and Sunday-schools, all owe much of their present condition of prosperity to his zeal and wisdom.

But the crowning effort of his life, and the one to which he gave his best thought and labour, was the establishment of the Lucknow Christian College, on a wide and firm foundation. Dr. Badley early began to plan for the extension of the old Centennial School, and the establishment of a College in Lucknow, which would supply the needed higher education for the rapidly increasing numbers of young men in our Church. He was able by wise measures to secure the grant of a valuable plot of land from the Government, situated in a most

desirable part of the city, and now an imposing building, costing 50,000 rupees, and admirably adapted to the requirements of a college, stands as a memorial of the faithful effort and unswerving purpose of Dr. Badley, who never rested until he saw his plans realised. Only a few days before his death he visited the building, and his heart was cheered by the sight of its rapid growth. Much as he longed to remain and work there, he seemed to realise that his place was above, for he said : "The walls of the college are going up, but I am going up higher." The college classes will begin work in the new building at the beginning of the year in July next. So the work will go on, but the inspiration and counsel of him whose cherished plan it was for so many years, will long be missed among us.

In general literary work Dr. Badley was indefatigable. The following are some of the books which came from his pen : The Sunday-school Manual, The Mela at Tulsipur, and translations of the following works : Missionary Among the Cannibals, Flavia, Glaucia, Seed Thought, Bible Question Book, and Thompson's History of England.

For five years he was Editor of the *Kaukab-i-Hind*, and for fourteen years Secretary of this Conference, besides serving in a number of other offices, more or less

important, among the rest being Secretary of the Lucknow Station Meetings for several years.

The most important of all his literary work was the preparation of the Indian Missionary Directory, which was first issued in 1876, and has since been twice revised and enlarged, while the third revision was going through Dr. Badley's hands at the time of his death. It will be finished and issued according to the original plan by Mrs. Badley. The amount of labour involved in the preparation of such a Directory for all the missions and missionaries in India is difficult to conceive; but he cheerfully undertook it, and received from every hand the appreciative gratitude of many busy men who profited by his labour. This was the last special work in which he engaged.

Although consumption had marked him for its own some two years before he succumbed, he bravely fought the disease, and, step by step, contested the way, never for a moment giving up his work or abating his zeal in planning for the future in the interests of the Mission. Even after he was unable to sit up longer, he kept writing in his reclining chair and, looking off over the long line of hills beyond Almora, where he spent his last summer, would seem to see the future beyond, and would work all the more earnestly that he might make each day count for the future he could see.

At last, after his return to the plains again in November, he was obliged to lay down his pen. Quietly and peacefully he left his work, not without regret but willing to obey God's call, and passed to his rich reward on the 20th day of November, 1891.

The funeral services were simple and impressive, and the body was followed to the grave by an immense concourse of people of all churches and creeds, and laid to rest in the peaceful cemetery, where, only a year before, another of our number had been laid.

The sympathy expressed was universal and heartfelt. It was a great loss which was felt by all missionaries in all our Indian Missions.

At the memorial service of the North India Conference, Dr. T. J. Scott told of a munshi whom he had once sent to assist Dr. Badley, and who, on his return, said, "I have been working for a month with an angel." After telling of the little street girl who stole away from the presence of a beautiful marble statue, to wash her face and hands, Dr. Scott said, referring to our brother, "His was one of those white souls that make us long to be better."

Bishop Thoburn wrote at the time of the District Conference as follows, and his words so fitly express our feelings that we record them here :—

"A vacant place, not soon to be filled, profoundly moves the hearts of all assembled here, and hundreds were moved to tears when the memorial of Dr. Badley was read. For many years he moved among these brethren, quietly, it is true, but with a power which was princely, and a purity which marked him as an early candidate for service in the upper sanctuary. Blameless in life, pure in speech, gentle in spirit, untiring in work, immovable in purpose, he wielded a blessed influence among his Hindustani brethren, and will long be remembered by them. He has well earned the rest which he now enjoys, and of such a man it can truly be said, "His works do follow him."

We do not forget that there are those here who mourn with a grief far more poignant than that which affects us as a missionary circle, and, extending our loving sympathy to our dear Sister Badley and her children in this time of their desolation and sorrow, we commend them to the loving protection of the Father who cares for them, and will not leave them comfortless. Wherever they may be, we assure them of our constant love for them, and a warm welcome should Providence again direct their way into our midst.

Signed on behalf of the Station Meeting,

FLORENCE M. PERRINE,

W. A. MANSELL, *Committee.*

METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE, LUCKNOW.